

October 4, 2012

Dear Healthcare Professional:

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency's (IEMA) Bureau of Radiation Safety strongly supports Image Gently, a nationwide campaign sponsored by the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging dedicated to radiation protection for children during digital radiography procedures. The Image Gently website (www.imagegently.org) is a valuable source of information about pediatric imaging for physicians, radiologists, medical physicists, radiologic technologists, industry partners, patients and parents.

The Image Gently campaign recently announced its latest phase: Back to Basics (**B**eam, **A**rtifacts, **S**hielding, **I**mmobilizations and **I**ndicators, **C**ollimation and **S**tructures). Back to Basics offers many excellent new educational materials for the medical community and parents. These materials include:

- A parent brochure, "What Parents Should Know About Radiation Protection in Medical Imaging," which you can print and provide to parents;
- PowerPoint presentations on pediatric imaging topics, such as immobilization, exposure indicators and managing radiation dose;
- Published papers on best practices and using exposure indicators to improve digital pediatric radiography;
- Recordings of presentations from a CR/DR Summit at Washington University in 2010;
- Image Gently Digital Radiography Safety Checklist, along with an implementation manual that provides a step by step process for implementation of the safety checklist.

Alliance member organizations urge that when performing imaging exams on children, health care professionals should note the following:

One size does not fit all. There's no question: X-rays help us save kids' lives. But when we image, radiation matters! Children are more sensitive to radiation. What we do now lasts their lifetimes. So, when we image, let's image gently.

More is often not better. When X-ray is the right thing to do:

1. Measure patient thickness for "child-size" technique;
2. Avoid using grids for body parts less than 10-12 cm thick;
3. X-ray only the indicated area with proper collimation and shielding;
4. Check exposure indicators and image quality.

I encourage you to visit the new Back to Basics section on the Image Gently website and review the many resources available to you.

I also urge you to join more than 17,500 medical professionals nationwide who have taken the Image Gently pledge to "child size" the radiation dose used in children's imaging. Thank you for your active participation.

Sincerely,



Jonathon Monken
Director

